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4 JAN 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, Supply Division, OL  
THROUGH : Chief, Physical Security Division, OS  
FROM : Chief, Technical Security Division, OS  
SUBJECT : Class 6 Security Containers Manufactured  
by Art Metal Products (Hillside)  
REFERENCE : Memo dated 1 Dec 76 for C/PhySD from C/SD  
subject: Hillside Filing Cabinets (Safes)  
received for Test and Evaluation

1. This office has reviewed the referenced correspondence and questions at this time whether additional testing of subject containers is warranted. It would appear that the deficiencies noted by Messrs. [ ] and [ ] who are, in the opinion of this office, quite qualified to perform inspections of this equipment, provide sufficient cause for rejection of said containers.

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2. It is recognized that since the Class 6 security container manufactured by Art Metal Products (Hillside) is currently listed on Federal Schedule, a potential problem exists with regard to re-supply of this category of container. It is noted, however, that the Mosler Safe Company is also listed on Federal Schedule as a supplier of the Class 6 container. The difference between the containers provided by these vendors is found in the style of Group 1 combination lock: hand-change for Mosler and key-change for Art Metal Products. As the product manufactured by the Mosler Safe Company is of known reliability and quality, this office would accept the Mosler Class 6 container with hand-change Group 1 combination lock, rather than the preferred key-change lock on a cabinet which has a number of cited weaknesses.

3. As concerns correspondence with the General Services Administration, this office prefers that the Office of Logistics communicate directly to appropriate GSA elements the deficiencies noted by your Staff. Should this approach prove

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unsatisfactory, please notify the undersigned and an attempt will be made through the Interagency Advisory Committee on Security Equipment to pursue this matter.

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1964-65

Involved personnel recall that in this time frame, GSA proposed to initiate a single contract award to Hillside for all safes for use within the Federal Government.

July 2, 1965

The State Department expressed objections to the single award. Attachment 1.

July 29, 1965

The Director of Security/CIA advised the Commissioner, GSA of the Agency's objections to the single award concept. Attachment 2.

September 1969

One hundred and thirty Hillside Class VI, two-drawer safes were received by CIA through GSA. Inspections determined several deficiencies and that the units did not meet specifications, then AA-F358E. Through the remainder of 1969 and early 1970, various efforts were made to correct the Hillside safes and to gain the support of GSA and Army quality control elements in rejecting them. (See Attachment 3) Toward that goal, the then Chief, Physical Security Branch, Office of the Provost Marshall General, Pentagon provided the CIA safe technician attachments 4 thru 8, which reflect the exchange between the Department of the Army and GSA as to tests conducted and their findings.

November 1969

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Sixty Hillside Class V, four-drawer safes were received at the Agency's [redacted]. In view of the problems identified with the previous Hillside safes, five were shipped to the [redacted] depot for inspection. Major discrepancies were noted. Attachment 9.

December 12, 1969

As a result of the deficiencies, the CIA safe technician, representatives of the Physical Security Division/OS, CIA and representatives of GSA sought assistance from the U.S. Bureau of Standards in validating the findings. Attachment 10.

January 1970

Tests were completed and the deficiencies noted and acknowledged by the GSA inspector. Attachment 11.

July 1970

Since the above tests indicated numerous faults in the safes tested, the CIA safe technician visited the [ ] Depot to inspect the remaining, fifty-five, safes held there. The results of his inspection are cited in Attachment 12.

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July 1971

The Agency established Diebold and Mosler safes as the Agency standard. Attachment 13.

12 April 1974

The issue of a single award contract was again raised by GSA in the Inter-agency Committee on Security Equipment. CIA response was in the same tone as its previous position. Attachment 14.

16 June 1975

GSA advises CIA that the Mosler Class VI safe will no longer be available under Federal Schedule since the 1976 bid was awarded Hillside. Attachment 15.

August 1975

Ordered two Hillside safes for evaluation.

16 January 1976

The Director of Security/CIA requests that the Office of Logistics/CIA negotiate directly with other sources for safes and requests that inspection be performed in house.

29 January 1976

The Office of Security limits the issue of Hillside safes to the Washington area. Attachment 17.

29 January 1976

The Office of Logistics rejects the concept of direct negotiations with safe manufacturers but agrees to continue attempts to purchase other than Hillside through GSA. Attachment 18.

13 May 1976

GSA substitutes Hillside safes against an Agency request for Mosler. GSA instructed to hold order pending the Agency's inspection of two Hillside safes ordered in August 1975. Attachment 19.

3 September 1976

Two Hillside safes received against August 1975 order and found to be unacceptable. Attachments 20, 21 and 22.

4 January 1977

The Office of Security/CIA again rejects the Hillside safe and requests the purchase of the Mosler safe. Attachment 23.

February 1977 to Date

To avoid the substitution of Hillside safes for Mosler or Diebold models, it has been the practice of the Agency in this period to purchase, under the Federal Schedule, the minimum order directly from the manufacturers.